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OLC 78-0487/17

25 August 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Pro Les

SUBJECT: Passage of S. 2640, the "Civil Service Reform Act of 1978"

1. The undersigned, accompanied by [redacted] of the Office of General Counsel, attended on the evening of 24 August 1978 the Senate floor debate on S. 2640, the "Civil Service Reform Act of 1978." The bill passed the Senate by a lop-sided vote of 87-1.

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2. All of CIA's exemptions, both those initially written in and those added at the insistence of this office, appear to have been retained in the bill as passed. This, however, cannot be positively determined until the passed bill is printed and reviewed in its entirety, which will be done as soon as a printed copy is available.

3. The House version of the Civil Service Reform legislation, vastly differing from that passed by the Senate, is expected to reach the House floor at approximately 3:00 p.m. on 6 September, as it is the second order of business upon the House's return from vacation. The House version continues to harbor several problems for this Agency, all of which we are presently concerning ourselves with. Although it is hoped that the most significant of those problems can be rectified by floor amendment (Representative Udall will introduce these with HPSCI Chairman Boland's support), some minor changes will undoubtedly have to be taken care of in conference.

4. Assuming that the House passes the bill, in one or another form, during the week of 5 September, it is anticipated that Conference will convene as soon as practicable thereafter.

5. An interesting sidelight which occurred during the Senate debate, and which is of benefit to us, concerns the Hatch Act reform provisions currently present in the House version. Both the Senate Majority and Minority floor managers agreed when pointedly asked that they, as conferees, would not, under any circumstances, accept a conference report which contained Hatch Act reform. This is of benefit to us as we are not presently totally exempted from the House Hatch Act provisions. The Office of Legislative Counsel will continue to keep interested parties apprised of developments in this important legislation as well as continue to work towards inclusion of our suggested amendments in the House bill.

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[redacted]
Assistant Legislative Counsel

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